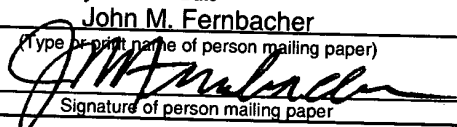


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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FOR REISSUE APPLICATION

Sir:

Please amend the specification and claims of United States Patent No. 6,308,531 B1, issued on October 30, 2001, as submitted on the following pages.